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**MATSUI SECURES \$30.3 MILLION FOR LOCAL FLOOD CONTROL
CONGRESS APPROVES PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECTS ON AREA RIVERS,
STREAMS**

Washington, D.C.—U.S. Representative Robert Matsui (D-Sacramento) today announced that the House of Representatives approved a plan to dedicate \$30.3 million this year to Sacramento flood control improvements.

“Every winter Sacramento faces the risk of catastrophic flooding from our two rivers and dozens of neighborhood creeks and streams,” said Rep. Matsui. “This year’s funding continues construction on crucial projects and starts an important new flood protection project in South Sacramento.”

The FY 2002 Energy and Water Appropriations Act approved \$30.3 million for planning and construction on seven flood control projects already underway in Sacramento and to begin construction on a new South Sacramento streams project. This year’s package includes \$7 million to modify the outlets on the Folsom Dam and improve efficiency in managing the reservoir’s water level to prevent flooding. This project received its first funding last year for \$4 million.

The largest appropriation in the agreement sets aside \$14 million for levee improvements along thirty-six miles of the American and Sacramento Rivers. The project also makes improvements to the flood warning system along the lower American River.

The new construction in the bill is for South Sacramento Stream flood prevention projects. The \$2.1 million will be used to raise levees along four creeks in South Sacramento that convey run off water from the foothills through urbanized neighborhoods in the Beach Lake and Delta areas.

The other \$7.2 million contained in the appropriation goes to ongoing projects to correct erosion on the banks of the American River, flood protection improvements to Magpie Creek, further analysis of possible plans to reduce flooding along the American River and the Lower Strong and Chicken Ranch Sloughs.

“Sacramento still has a lower level of flood protection than other river cities such as New Orleans, St. Louis and Omaha. When the projects now underway are completed, Sacramento will be protected against a 144 year flood. However, this is still inadequate for our city’s needs,” said Rep. Matsui. “My number one priority for protecting Sacramento is to finish the projects contained in this appropriations act and then move forward on the next generation of plans to protect Sacramento from a 200 year flood.”

Sacramento currently only has an 85-year level of flood protection. A catastrophic flood in Sacramento would impact \$40 billion of property including the California State Capitol, six major hospitals, 26 nursing home facilities, over 100 schools, 3 major freeway systems, and approximately 160,000 homes or apartments. The whole Northern California region is at risk from a devastating flood and individual homes and businesses are at even greater risk from neighborhood creek and stream floods.

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